

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT East German Army Activity
at Schweinrich

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report concerning large-
scale East German Army armored exercises in the training area east and south-
east of Schweinrich

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EAST GERMANY

MILITARY

E.G.A. activity at SCHWEINRICH
(20/21 Aug 58)

MAP REFERENCES:

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1. Large-scale E.G.A. armoured exercises were in progress on 20/21 Aug 58 in the training area east and south-east of SCHWEINRICH. 25X1
2. The armoured units of the E.G.A. came from the NEUSTRELITZ area and were accommodated in tents.
3. The E.G.A. armoured units were made up of approximately 12 squadrons, each of which consisted of 12 tanks, one BTR 6x6, one recovery vehicle with crane and accompanying soft-skinned vehicles.
4. Amphibious exercises were also taking place from the eastern bank of the DRANSER SEE from east to west. 25X1
5. The amphibious exercises were carried out by the tanks entering the water, driving very fast across to the western bank, where they would quickly disappear into cover.
6. The tanks and the behaviour of the tanks are described as follows:
 - (a) These amphibious tanks have 5 bogey wheels and are similar in shape to the T-54.
 - (b) The tanks appeared to be lightly armoured and to carry a gun of approximately 76 mm.
 - (c) Before entering the water pipes were affixed to the exhausts immediately behind the turret in a vertical position and, when the tank was immersed, were approximately 80 cms. above the surface.
 - (d) The tanks plunged into the water and floated with the turret and gun alone above water.
 - (e) Propulsion was achieved by water entering the bows and being propelled with great force to the stern from two jets. The tanks did not turn sharply on their axis in the water, but required 20-25 metres to do so. In order to turn one jet of the tank was switched off.
 - (f) When emerging from the water the forward impetus of the tank would take it well up the comparatively slight incline of the bank. Propulsion would then revert to the tracks and the tanks would then rapidly disappear into cover.
 - (g) A skirting partly covered the bogey wheels of the tanks. This skirting sloped sharply outwards.

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- (h) The tanks were fast both on land and in the water. Their movement in the water can be described as similar to that of a speed-boat, i.e. with the bows slightly raised and the stern down; at speed a considerable wake was evident.
7. The E.G.A. troops were well fed, particularly in comparison with the normal rations of Russian troops.
8. These exercises are due to break up at the end of August, when these E.G.A. troops will return to their garrisons in the north.
9. The whole training area around SCHWEINRICH is well guarded and no civilian or unauthorised personnel may enter it.
10. No Russian troops were taking part in the exercises held in this area, both on land and in the water. Russian officer observers were, however, present.
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